



BEHIND THE BADGE

INSPIRE



ENGAGE



RECRUIT

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE

February 2022

AIRCADE site launches!

Check it out on
airforceaircade.com

AIRMAN CHALLENGE

Fly, fight and win against threats



BEHIND THE BADGE

ABOUT US:

Behind the Badge is a digitally published, monthly magazine catering to the recruiting community. It is an official publication of the Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs Office.

SUBMIT:

Behind the Badge welcomes submissions from all recruiters and those working in the field. Photos, videos, story ideas, commentaries, suggestions and criticisms are all welcome, although publication is not guaranteed.

TO SUBMIT:

email: afrshqpa@us.af.mil

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ON THE COVER:



A graphic for AIRCADE. The U.S. Air Force has launched several digital experiences as a way to educate, inspire and recruit the future generation of Airmen. Read more on page 1.

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas! Wherever you are, we hope you, your Wingman and your loved ones are safe and warm during these winter months.

You may have heard that the Air Force has met its goals through the first quarter of fiscal year 2022. To use a football analogy during this Super Bowl week, now we're going to have to run the ball hard in the second half in order to make the recruiting goal, but it can be done!

As we enter into the proverbial second half, everyone here is eager to showcase how recruiters across the country and around the world are working hard to meet their goals. So send us your high resolution photos and details about what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Your presence back in our communities will boost awareness and inspire America's youth to pursue military service as a career option. Let us know how our Public Affairs office can help you to develop community-based engagement strategies, supported by robust marketing and advertising that is focused on cultivating new relationships in order to demonstrate the shared values, versatile career options, and personal development opportunities within the Air Force.

HELPFUL HINTS ON HOW TO SAVE IMAGES:

We love showcasing Recruiters in Action ... keep them coming! I wanted to share a few helpful hints for the New Year!

Things to remember when submitting your images to PA for consideration for the magazine:

1. Images should be 300 dpi (dots per inch) at the initial submission. (or at least 1 mb file size in jpeg format.)
2. Resolution and image size are inversely proportional to each other. Enlarge an image, the resolution decreases; reduce an image, the resolution increases. Example: a 2 x 2" image at 300 dpi (acceptable) enlarged to 4 x 4" has a new resolution of 150 dpi (unacceptable).
3. When submitting your images, please do not embed in your word document. Send your images separately in jpeg format (or at least 1 mb file).
4. Low resolution images print fuzzy, jagged, blurry and do not allow much flexibility in the final layout.

When using your cell phones:

1. Use gridlines: they help balance your shot when taking pictures with your phone. Turning on gridlines will place lines on your screen based on the rule of thirds.
2. Get Closer, lose the filters, clean the lens and turn off the flash.
3. Trying taking pictures from weird angles. This can result in some of the most memorable photos. It's all about seeing things from a different perspective!
4. Turn your phone on its side. The web is a horizontal medium.

Visit: digitalbrandinginstitute.com/take-awesome-pictures-phone/ for more tips.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at: afrshqpa@us.af.mil

AIRCADE site launches!

Throughout the years, the U.S. Air Force has launched several digital experiences as a way to educate, inspire and recruit the future generation of Airmen. In an effort to make these experiences more accessible, AIRCADE was launched in December 2021.

This website gives users easy access to all of the Air Force's online gaming experiences in one central location. Users are given a unique call sign upon registering and can track their progress against other users on each game's leaderboard. Each game features real-life skills Airmen use every day including reaction time, coordination and logic. How these skills are tested, however, varies widely among the games. From a million-piece puzzle to an augmented reality mobile flight simulator, players will learn more about the incredible opportunities the Air Force has to offer and have fun while doing so.

Within the platform, the users can select to play Command the Stack, Airman Challenge, E.C.H.O., or Million Piece Mission! Check it out on airforceaircade.com.

AIRMAN CHALLENGE
Fly, fight and win against threats

MISSION
What kind of Airman does it take to achieve mission success? Find out for yourself in action-packed missions.

REACTION STRATEGY
SPEED ACCURACY
COMPREHENSION

COMMAND THE STACK
AR tactical flight game

MISSION
It takes a team to accomplish every mission. See how the U.S. Air Force carries out teamwork in the sky in this aviation-focused mobile game.

STRATEGY COMPREHENSION
TEAMWORK ACCURACY
ABILITY

E.C.H.O.
Enhanced Cognitive Human Ops

MISSION
Mission success requires sharp minds. Put your cognitive skills to the test in this dynamic experience.

FOCUS REACTION
CURIOSITY ACCURACY
REASONING

MILLION PIECE MISSION
The ultimate virtual puzzle

MISSION
You'll need focus and curiosity to complete this world-record-breaking puzzle.

CRITICAL THINKING FOCUS
CURIOSITY STRATEGY
MEMORY



The 330th Recruiting Squadron set up a booth at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show Jan. 18-21, 2022, at the Venetian Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas. The SHOT Show is the nation's largest professional event for sport shooting, hunting and outdoor industry. While the recruiters had the chance to speak to many spectators, visits by celebrities like Randy Couture (top) and Dan Henderson (right) were highlights of the recruiting effort.



WODAPALOOZA

One of the early national partnership kick-offs for the 330th Recruiting Squadron included an activation at Wodapalooza which occurred in Bayfront Park, Miami, Florida, Jan. 13-16, 2022. Wodapalooza is a functional fitness festival. The competition featured many well-known functional fitness athletes who competed in their respective divisions. Celebrity CrossFit athlete, Justin Medeiros, visited the 330th RCS booth on Jan. 14, 2022.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Stapleton (left), an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and recruiter with the 330th RCS and Master Sgt. James

Robison (right), 330th RCS's trainer/marketer, pose for a photo with CrossFit athlete Justin Medeiros.

Below one of the day's winners of a recruiter-sponsored raffle for a duffel bag poses for a photo with (left) Staff Sgt. Jonathan Stapleton an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and recruiter with the 330th Recruiting Squadron along with 330th RCS SW recruiters Master Sgt. James Robison (pointing), Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Bell (second from right) and Master Sgt. Randy Rodriguez all stationed in Florida.



The 330th Recruiting Squadron kicked off its national partnership with Supercross in January with four races each weekend. The third round of Supercross, on Jan. 22, 2022, was designated as the Military Appreciation Race. Special Warfare operators based at Fort Irwin, California, joined with the 330th RCS for opening ceremonies. Prior to the drop of the gate, the SW operators assisted recruiters at their booth and cheered for participants during competition. Then they talked to participants and spectators about what it takes to be SW Airmen.

Staff Sgt. Devin Mazza (below) a SW operator with the 12th Combat Training Squadron cheers for a spectator who was competing in the pull-up challenge at the 330th Recruiting Squadron booth, Jan. 22, 2022, in PETCO Park, San Diego during Supercross. Pull-ups are one part of the Physical Ability and Stamina Test that future SW Airmen need to pass in order to get into the development program.



AETC CONTINUES TO DEVELOP AIRMEN, CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Story By Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs / Published Jan. 23, 2022



Members of Air Education and Training Command celebrate the command's 80th anniversary today, honoring the Air Force's oldest major command and all of the students and trainees who have been recruited, trained and educated at First Command.

Throughout 2022, members at AETC have plans to celebrate the 80th milestone for AETC, with various events around the command.

The first event to honor the anniversary was Jan. 22 during an anniversary event, where Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ

Brown, Jr., provided remarks virtually.

"The familiar torch of knowledge has been continuously passed and still lights our way in a complex world," Brown said. "Everything [the men and women of AETC do] underpins the Air Force's critical role in national defense and global security. We must never forget AETC is where we started, and where we came from. Your history is the Air Force's history, and you chart our important path into the future."

Other events planned during 2022 to highlight the anniversary are the Wings Over Columbus Air Show and Stem Expo at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, March 26 - 27; Fiesta San Antonio, March 31 - April 10;

When then Chief of Staff of the Air Corps Lt. Gen. Hap Arnold visited San Antonio in December 1942, he spoke to Airmen in training at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center—today's Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. He spoke in front of 10 acres of air cadets, pilots and crew that would fight the coming key air battles of World War II. The photograph of the speech and arrayed Airmen made its way around the world and became the iconic photograph of Air Corps training in World War II.



Great Texas Air Show at JBSA-Randolph, April 23 - 24; and Legacy of Liberty Air Show and Open House at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, May 7 - 8.

“For 80 years, AETC has taken America’s sons and daughters – young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country in difficult times – and forged and developed them into professional Airmen and Guardians,” Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of AETC, said. “Our legacy then and now is fighting through challenges. We must continue to invest in learning opportunities that allow Airmen to learn the way they live. Accelerating change starts with an empowered workforce that has the foundational competencies, the right skills, and the drive to innovate.”

Throughout AETC’s history, training to develop Airmen, and most recently Guardians, has been a priority.

“Our people are our greatest weapon system no matter the decade,” said Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, AETC’s command chief master sergeant. “We celebrate in the fact that nearly all Airmen begin their careers in the First Command and continue to return to us throughout their careers for their development. We take pride in knowing that our people programs keep Airmen ready to meet the challenges of today and the future.”

For AETC’s complete history, go to the Air Force Historian’s publications website at <https://www.afhistory.af.mil/Portals/64/Books/Titles/Complete%2080th%20Anniversary%20History%20red2>.

In 1975, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. David C. Jones announced the launch of a test program that would enable women to enter pilot training and staff a now all-volunteer force after the abolishment of the military draft following the Vietnam War. The first 10 women earned their silver wings Sept. 2, 1977.

“For 80 years, AETC has taken America’s sons and daughters – young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country in difficult times – and forged and developed them into professional Airmen and Guardians.”

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb



U.S. Space Force Lt. Col. Patrisha Knight, 347th Recruiting Squadron commander (above) leads the Oath of Enlistment during a Championship SnoCross event in Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2022. The five individuals being sworn-in recently entered the Delayed Entry Program and recited the oath as part of the opening ceremonies for the event's main races. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Apryl Hall)



(Left) Lt. Col. Patrisha Knight, 347th Recruiting Squadron commander was interviewed by media at a Championship SnoCross event in Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2022.

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS WELCOME THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HONOR GUARD DRILL TEAM

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team visited Shady Spring High School and Greenbrier East High School to perform and interact with students and teachers in southern West Virginia on Dec. 10, 2021.

The team performed twice for each school to allow every sophomore, junior and senior to see a drill performance that was for most, their first. A standard drill team performance features a professionally-choreographed sequence of weapon maneuvers, precise tosses, complex weapon exchanges and a walk through the gauntlet of spinning weapons.

Following the performances, members of the team answered questions from the audience and students took turns grabbing photos with the team members.

Airman 1st Class Matthew Sweeney, a ceremonial guardsman and 2020 graduate of Shady Spring High School, played a key part in setting up both events. He and his recruiter, U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Franco Pace, stayed in contact and helped coordinate both events. Pace recruited Sweeney during his senior year of high school.

“I’m hoping that my team and I have been able to inspire some students to join the Air Force,” said Sweeney. “In my opinion, the Air Force is the way to go, so hopefully we have some recruits that come out of these performances.”

Both Sweeney and Pace gave speeches to the crowd after the performances.

“During my time in recruiting, this will probably be my most memorable event,” said Pace. “To have someone

that I have put in the Air Force come back to their home to perform is just incredible.”

The drill team serves as the lead office for Honor Guard recruiting efforts. They work with the Air Force Recruiting Service to provide presence in hundreds of locations. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Casey Randolph, flight chief for the drill team, leads and guides the team throughout their recruiting efforts, such as at high schools.



The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team perform at Shady Spring High School at Shady Spring, West Virginia, Dec. 10, 2021. On average, the drill team performs between 100-150 times each year at various locations worldwide focusing on promoting the Air Force mission by showcasing their skills at public and military venues to recruit, retain, and inspire Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Corey Hook)

“An important part of our mission is to recruit the best and brightest men and women for the future force,” said Randolph. “We do this by demonstrating the precision and professionalism our drill team is known for. We also have a unique opportunity to put faces and names to service men and women by having personal interactions with students, faculty, and the communities we visit.”

The team tours various Air Force bases and performs community events across the globe, including performances to the thousands who visit the Nation’s Capital each year. The drill team averages between 100-150 performances a year, showcasing the elite Air Force capabilities and heritage in order to inspire audiences worldwide.

“I’m hoping that my team and I have been able to inspire some students to join the Air Force,”

Airman 1st Class Matthew Sweeney

SEMPER SUPRA – FUTURE GUARDIANS MAKING HISTORY AT THE PIMA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

U.S. Air Force Capt. Lauren Bauer, U.S. Southern Command and 12th Air Force (Air Force Southern), Space Forces deputy director (top right) swore in future Guardians during a ceremony at the Pima Air and Space Museum at Tucson, Arizona, January 15, 2022.

Recruiting Guardians and building a strong foundation within the force is critical to supporting National security through its newest capabilities to protect the nation and its allies' interests in space.

U.S. Space Force Lt. Col. Jonathan Whitaker, U.S. Southern Command Director of Space Forces, (middle right) talked to the future Guardians about Space Force and their future.

Later, Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Harvey, 362nd Recruiting Squadron (bottom right) enlisted accessions recruiter also took time out to pose with the future Guardians.



Airmen couple earn STEP promotions

By Staff Sgt. Elijah Tiggs, 349h Recruiting Squadron

While still celebrating the accomplishment of her husband's promotion thanks to the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program one week earlier, Staff Sgt. Chakoya Lockett, 349th Recruiting Squadron recruiter, was unaware that her leadership had decided to announce her own STEP promotion.

In the early afternoon, Dec. 7, 2021, Chakoya was in her recruiting office when surprised by a seemingly impromptu visit from 349th RCS leadership as well as her husband, Tech. Sgt. Jackson Lockett, a 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron flight engineer at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Chakoya was then handed a phone with a video call from Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, Air Education and Training Command commander, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Webb congratulated her on her outstanding work and announced that he had selected her for STEP promotion to technical sergeant.

"I am ecstatic!" said Chakoya. "I'm just so blessed to have supervision who see me and took the time to recognize me for those accomplishments."

Among that supervision from the 349th RCS leadership was Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Mott, 349th RCS senior enlisted leader, who shared the weight

of this promotion with the squadron following Webb's announcement.

"Imagine if you will, competing with all the top talent we have in Air Force Recruiting Service. Then crank it up to the AETC level where we also include other top talent like Military Training Instructors, Military Training Leaders, tech school instructors and all the support needed for those missions," said Mott.

"From this arena is where our recruiter was selected."

Mott's confirmations of Chakoya's accomplishments as a recruiter went beyond her current title as he continued sharing insight into Chakoya's selection for promotion.

"Being the exceptional recruiter that you are would have only had you in competition with other exceptional recruiters," Mott said. "But being an exceptionally well-rounded, multi-capable Airman is what helped you stand out and earn this promotion. That work ethic will continue to serve you best in your career no matter where you serve."

Chakoya was impacted by the support of her leadership.

"Chief's words really resonated with me because it's basically how I've molded my career so far. But I've always felt like that mentality wouldn't get me far," Chakoya said. "I don't do things to check a box and I never have. I strive to do things that are meaningful to me, impact lives, and even help me grow as a person, not just as an Airman."



Staff Sgt. Chakoya Lockett, 349th Recruiting Squadron recruiter, and Tech. Sgt. Jackson Lockett, 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron flight engineer, pose for photos as newly promoted technical sergeants through Stripes for Exceptional Performers competition. A STEP promotion is used by commanders to recognize exceptional performers by immediately awarding them the next rank. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Elijah Tiggs)

Lockett is still in her first year as a recruiter. Originally an aerospace ground equipment maintainer she has carried a focused drive to overcome all obstacles no matter the arena.

“Maintenance was a huge learning curve for me, but I’ve always excelled academically and I think that’s what I’ve tried to maintain throughout my career,” said Lockett. “This has been a tough year, not just for my rookie year, but personally as well, and I feel like this validates all the sacrifices and bumps in the road.”

The Lockett household will be led by two new technical sergeants and they have a lot to celebrate as the year closes.

“I’m celebrating with a fancy steak dinner and spending time with my husband and son who have sacrificed with me through my entire journey,” said Chakoya.



Lt. Col. Curtis Grantham, 349th Recruiting Squadron commander, presents a Stripes for Exceptional Performers promotion award to Staff Sgt. Chakoya Lockett, 349th RCS recruiter, as Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, Air Education and Training Command commander, congratulates Lockett via video call. Lockett competed as a recruiter with all of AETC for this distinguished promotion. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Elijah Tiggs)

A graphic for 'Career Chats' featuring a large speech bubble with the text 'Career Chats' in blue. Below it are icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. A smaller speech bubble contains the text: 'Questions about a career? Ask the experts - it's great for applicants! If there's a career you like to see, let us know at afrshqpa@us.af.mil'. The background is a stylized laptop.

**Join us on 16 February
at 1400 CT**

**Topic:
Total Force
Recruiters**

Visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/USAirForce Recruiting>

Coming April, 2022.
Stay tuned for more.



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Why and how I lost 125 pounds so I could join the Air Force

By Eric Rodriguez, a future Airman



Since I was little, I wanted to be in the Air Force. Due to my past history, I had to put that on hold. When I realized that my family was finally stable, I started thinking to myself, what if I join the Air Force?

I started to think about the future, because I'm the kind of person that likes to think ahead. Taking it day by day but planning ahead.

I decided to start this journey and let my personal dreams benefit others. You may think that my mindset was all about having all the benefits that the Air Force provides. But that's not completely true. Just being part of the Air Force was more than enough. The rest is an added bonus.

Knowing that I could serve my country is a great honor for me. That being said, having

the privilege to enter the Air Force wasn't going to be a walk in the park.

Because of my upbringing, being part of a family with a delicious, excessive culinary eating habit - my grandma's cooking was my weakness - I always lived my childhood and teens, overweight.

Then adulthood came and I started to think about my future and how I'm going to raise my future children. So, then I decided to make a drastic change in my life. I was stuck in a dead-end job. Even though I was good at it, I felt unfulfilled.

A couple of events happened afterward in my life. You may say they were blessings in disguise that led me to an Air Force recruiting office. I will never forget the words that one of the recruiters said to me. I weighed 280 pounds back then.

"We are looking for quality not quantity," she said. I asked her what I needed to do to enter the Air Force. She told me to lose 125 pounds.

"Challenge accepted," I said.

That was November, 2019. I immediately started to work. I began to do exercise and an intense diet. The diet was the worst part.

I'm the kind of person that likes to take control of any given situation. To me everything is about mindset. If you have the right mindset, you can achieve anything.

I began to make a list to achieve my goals. My list included: change my eating habits, study how the

body works and implement exercise routines that benefit weight loss, change my daily routine, meditation, and study for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

There were lots of obstacles including rainy days, earthquakes, pandemic, food temptation, people doubting me, and my wife's own medical condition and all the challenges that came with it.

All of that just gave me more drive to reach my goal of becoming an Airman.

I wasn't going to give up just because it was raining. I ran under the rain thinking of all the people that doubted me saying, "You're not going to make it." What motivated me was thinking about my wife's health and knowing that the Air Force would take care of her even if I'm gone. She would have the best doctors' treatment and care that any nation can give her.

I wasn't going to stop, even when I felt like faltering, I would drag myself to the finish line. I was energized by knowing I was going to be part of this great nation's Air Force. In every 5-mile run I had, I was always reciting in my mind the Airman's Creed. That helped a lot. I also repeated the third Air Force Core Value: Excellence in all we do. If I didn't complete the daily routine, I'd always feel like I let everybody down.

That's how I ended up losing 125lbs.

Rodriguez shipped to Basic Military Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Jan. 25, 2022. "I think a lot of people can benefit from such an empowering story through the understanding that sometimes we are our biggest obstacle," said Master Sgt. Charlie Lorenzo, from G Flight, 333rd Recruiting Squadron. Lorenzo is Rodriguez's recruiter.

WHAT RECRUITERS AND GUESTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ATTENDING BMT GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Currently, each graduating Airman is allowed a maximum of four guests.

That total of four includes **EVERYONE** – regardless of age or possession of a DoD ID card.

For each guest, trainees or their recruiter submits the following information to the 37th Training Wing:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Social Security number
- Driver's license number (if applicable).

Remember, the trainee is the only person who can request a guest.

For more information visit:
<https://www.basictraining.af.mil/About-Us/Frequently-Asked-Questions/>
Or <https://www.airforce.com/education/military-training/bmt/overview>

DON'T FORGET!
Go to the BMT website for more information



RECRUITER SIGNS SISTER TO BE AN AIRMAN

By Leslie Brown, AFRS Public Affairs

Sometimes recruiting is a numbers game but once in a while it can be a family affair. For one enlisted accessions recruiter, his applicant was his sister and Air Force Basic Military Training star.

Tech. Sgt. Terell Douglas, a recruiter in the 369th Recruiting Squadron's Whittier, California, office recently had the pleasure of enlisting his sister, Airman 1st Class Tiesha Douglas, in the Air Force and being by her side at her BMT graduation when she was presented the Top Graduate award.

"I've always spoken with her about the amazing opportunities and experiences I've had in the Air Force long before I became a recruiter," Terell said. "There were a few points over the years that she considered taking steps (toward joining) but would always change her mind."

Terell said that he knew Tiesha would make a great Airman.

"She displayed our core values (integrity first, service before self and

excellence in all we do), even before she knew they were a thing," Douglas said.

Tiesha remained hesitant until one day she finally made the call to her brother.

"It felt amazing to finally come to the decision that I was ready to join the Air Force and to have my brother as my recruiter was the icing on the cake for me," Tiesha said. "It makes the experience much more special."

Terell told her that if she was serious, he would treat her virtual appointment for interview just like any other applicant. He made it clear he couldn't treat her any different than others during the recruiting process.

"We are both adults living different lives and our normal conversations don't reach the depth of questioning involved in the recruiting process," Terell said. "While having some background information on her did allow me to have a head start on the initial interview, there were many new things that I learned about her. Treating her process no differently

than the typical applicant has resulted in the best outcome."

While it was always on her mind to join, her brother said she questioned her ability to deal with the physical and mental challenges of BMT.

"There were definitely challenging points in BMT like pushing through physical fitness or living with many females or being part of an integrated flight with males," Tiesha said.

To get through those times, she relied on something her brother had said when she felt like she couldn't go on. Tiesha said she that during BMT she always looked forward to a phone call because she would call her brother for motivation.

"It was great to see my brother again after two months and show him I made it through although I had my doubts," she said after her reunion with Terell at the BMT graduation.

Terell said he wasn't the only one excited about his sister's decision; their family was excited, too.



Tech. Sgt. Terell Douglas, 369th Recruiting Squadron enlisted accessions recruiter, poses with his sister, Airman 1st Class Tiesha Douglas, after she was named the Top Graduate during her recent basic training graduation on Jan. 20, 2022. Douglas recruited his sister into the Air Force.

“They were ecstatic! Being the first in my family to serve, they had their reservations when I initially joined the Air Force but mostly supported my decision,” Terell said. “They have witnessed my growth, experiences, opportunities and much more over my years of service. With that being said, when they knew Tiesha wanted to join and that I would have the ability to be her recruiter, they wanted her to leave before the process even started.”

His military experience inspired his sister.

It made me more aware of what it means to be an Airman because he has been in for 12 years, Tiesha said. “It’s amazing to be an Airman. I feel quite honored to be an Airman after all these years.”

After she graduated from BMT Jan. 20, 2022, with distinction, she entered technical training for her career field, Aerospace Medical, located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

For his work recruiting BMT’s Top Graduate, Terell was recognized as BMT’s Recruiter of the Week during

the graduation ceremony. What stands out in his mind from that day however was a discussion he kept hearing in his car when he took his sister and her friend, also a BMT graduate, off base during their liberal leave.

“They kept saying I’m an Airman!” he said.

Tiesha doesn’t recall how often she repeated the phrase but she cherishes the memory as her brother tells it.

“I was shocked and ecstatic that it happened,” she said.



Airman 1st Class Tiesha Douglas (center) and Tech. Sgt. Terell Douglas, her brother, a recruiter in the 369th Recruiting Squadron’s Whittier, California, office (third from right) pose for a photo with senior leaders from the 37th Training Wing after a Basic Military Training graduation ceremony in Airman’s Arena at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 20, 2022. Tiesha was the top graduate. For being the top graduate’s recruiter, he was selected as the recruiter of the week.